

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
IO-13 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02
AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 SIL-01
OPIC-03 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 H-01 JUSE-00
PA-01 HA-05 /139 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2524

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 18: ILLICIT
PAYMENTS INITIATIVE

1. REPORTS TODAY INDICATE THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
POSITION ON THE US PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE
AN AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS HAS SHIFTED. THE COM-
MUNITY IS NOW PREPARED TO SUPPORT A CONFERENCE IN 1980
ONLY IF SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IS MADE DURING THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE, THUS LEAVING A FIRM DATE FOR THE CONFERENCE
ENTIRELY CONTINGENT. OUR FEELING IS THAT THERE WERE
ENOUGH EC MEMBERS RELUCTANT TO SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE DATE
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AND THAT THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED THE EC POSITION. THERE
APPEARS TO BE NO LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE EC ON THE US POSI-
TION.

2. DURING YESTERDAY'S FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, DANISH DEL
(KJELDGAARD) READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AS PART OF THE
JOINT NORDIC DECLARATION, "THE NORDIC COUNTRIES WELCOME

THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP AND THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GROUP TO ECOSOC INTER ALIA THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED STATES, TO PREPARE FOR A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES AT AN EARLY MOMENT TO CONCLUDE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD BE DECIDED UPON AS SOON AS THE WORKING GROUP HAS FINISHED ITS TASK." IN DISCUSSIONS WITH USDEL, SWEDISH REP, ALTHOUGH ASSOCIATED WITH THE STATEMENT, ASSURED US OF FULL SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR A CONFERENCE IN 1979 OR 1980. DANISH REP, HOWEVER, SAID THAT HIS POSITION WAS THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD NOT BEEN MADE DURING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS TO WARRANT SETTING A CONFERENCE DATE. UNDER PRESSURE, HE CONCEDED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS FULLY THE PROGRESS MADE AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP SINCE DANISH REP WHO ATTENDED WAS ON VACATION.

3. THE COMMUNITY POSITION CHANGE, WE ARE INFORMED, HAS BEEN PRESSED BY THE ITALIAN DELEGATION, WHO FELT THAT SETTING A FIRM DATE WAS PREMATURE. EC GROUP MET TUESDAY MORNING. THREE SEPARATE SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH ARE SAYING THAT THEY COULD SUPPORT A CONFERENCE IN 1980 BUT WOULD PREFER LANGUAGE CONVENING A CONFERENCE "IF POSSIBLE" IN THE LIGHT OF PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. THE FRG HAS DETERMINED THAT THIS POSITION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE TO THEIR LIKING AND HAVE BACKED OFF EARLIER SUPPORT. FRENCH WERE SAID TO STRONGLY BACK ITALIAN POSITION.

4. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION WAS NOW CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE WORKING GROUP AND WERE PROBABLY NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE US RESOLUTION. THIS IS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF LOBBYING BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

5. FOR PARIS: FRENCH POSITION AS REPORTED APPEARS TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS ASSURANCES IN NEW YORK, PARIS, GENEVA, AND FELDMAN'S CONVERSATION WITH DELACHARRIERE. WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER FOLLOW-UP WITH GOF OFFICIALS IS USEFUL AND DEFER TO DEPT AND AMEMBASSY PARIS VIEWS.

6. FOR ROME: WE BELIEVE REPRESENTATION AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL SHOULD BE MADE SUBJECT TO DEPT APPROVAL STRESSING THAT THE WORKING GROUP MADE GOOD PROGRESS AT ITS FINAL SESSION AND RECOMMENDED TO ECOSOC THAT A CONFERENCE BE CONVENED AT AN EARLY DATE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT (SEE REFTELS PARA10 BELOW). IN VIEW OF ITALIAN REMARKS (ROME

12822) NOTING THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE WE WOULD HOPE
THEY COULD INSTRUCT THEIR DELEGATION AT ECOSOC TO SUPPORT A
RESOLUTION CONVENING A CONFERENCE IN 1980. (SEE GENEVA
11313) BEING REPEATED TO YOU). WE ARE TOLD THAT ITALIAN
POSITION IS BASED ON OECD HEADS OF STATE STATEMENT WHICH
LEFT CONFERENCE SCHEDULING CONTINGENT AND THAT ITALI-
ANS FEEL ECOSOC RESOLUTION SHOULD GO NO FURTHER. YOU MAY
WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE ECOSOC WORKING GROUP FINAL
SESSION, WHICH OCCURRED AFTER OECD MEETING, MADE SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS IN NARROWING DIFFERENCES AND JUSTIFIES SETTING A
DATE, AS THE WORKING GROUP ITSELF RECOMMENDED. THIS WOULD
BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE HEADS OF STATE COMMUNIQUE,
AND WE QUESTION WHETHER A REFUSAL TO SCHEDULE IS NOW CON-
SISTENT WITH IT.
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7. FOR COPENHAGEN: SUBJECT TO DEPTS CONCURRENCE, WE BE-

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2525

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 11453

LIEVE DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH THIS ISSUE WOULD BE USEFUL (SEE GENEVA 11313 BEING REPEATED TO YOU) URGING SUPPORT FOR US RESOLUTION. DANISH PARTICIPATION IN FINAL SESSION OF WORKING GROUP WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND ON THE WHOLE POSITIVE AND SEEMS INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT POSITION. IT MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO CONTACT THE DANISH PARTICIPANT IN THE WORKING GROUP.

8. DICK POOLE HAS JUST REPORTED THAT THE FRG REP (KOCH) EC SPOKESMAN, APPROACHED HIM TO REPORT THAT THE EC-9 (IRELAND AND LUXEMBOURG ABSENT) MET TUESDAY MORNING AND REACHED THE "UNANIMOUS DECISION BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS "THAT THEY COULD NOT AGREE AT THIS POINT TO SET A DATE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND COULD NOT "UNTIL THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE HAD WORKED OUT CERTAIN BASIC WRINKLES, SUCH AS ARTICLE 7 (AFRICAN INVESTMENT)". THEY WOULD HOWEVER, BE AGREEABLE TO A RESOLUTION CONVENING A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE "AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED AT A FUTURE ECOSOC SESSION", AND CREATING A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE NOW. DEPENDING ON PROGRESS IN THE PREPCOM, THE DECISION COULD BE TAKEN AT THE SPRING 1979 ECOSOC TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE.

9. COMMENT: WE ARE UNCERTAIN THAT MORE CAN BE DONE IN EC-9 CAPITALS EXCEPT AS NOTED AT THIS STAGE. THE KEY IS THE G-77, SINCE THE EC WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT WHATEVER THE G-77 WILL BACK.

10. FOR WELLINGTON: (REFTELS STATE 168316, 168317, 171038, AND GENEVA 11313 BEING REPEATED TO YOU). PLEASE EXPLORE, SUBJECT TO DEPT CONCURRENCE, SUBJECT AT APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE ILLICIT PAYMENTS INITIATIVE AND SEEKING GOZ SUPPORT FOR US RESOLUTION AS REVISED IN GENEVA 11313. GOZ HAS NOT PARTICIPATED TO DATE IN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP.

11. FOR THE HAGUE: WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAS PROVIDED NO LEADERSHIP ON THE US RESOLUTION WITHIN THE EC-9, AND THAT IT HAS ADOPTED A POSITION AGAINST SCHEDULING A CONFERENCE NOW, IN VIEW OF PAST SUPPORT FOR A TREATY AT THE ECOSOC WORKING GROUP AND RECENTLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A 1980 CONFERENCE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR VIEWS WHETHER ANYTHING EFFECTIVE CAN BE DONE AT THIS STAGE.

12. FOR ROME: IN PARA 6 ABOVE, SUBSTITUTE "MINISTERIAL"
FOR "HEADS OF STATE". VANDEN HEUVEL
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